

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixing unit which is detachably attached to an image forming apparatus, and fuses and fixes an unfixed toner onto a recording medium, said fixing unit comprising:

5 a gripping part which is provided outside said fixing unit and is gripped when said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing unit;

a medium introducing port which is provided near said gripping part and to which said recording medium is guided; and

10 a shutter which is provided slanted at a given angle with respect to a gripping surface of said gripping part such that said shutter has a fulcrum at a part thereof closer to said gripping part at said medium introducing port, and is turnable to a position to close said medium introducing port while resisting the urging forces of springs.

15 2. A fixing unit according to claim 1, wherein said shutter is kept in a state that said shutter opens said medium introducing port by said urging forces of said springs, and said 20 shutter closes said medium introducing port while resisting said urging forces of said springs only when an external force is applied from said gripping part to said shutter.

25 3. A fixing unit according to claim 1, wherein said medium introducing port is linear in shape, and said shutter

is a plate-like member extending in a longitudinal direction of said linear medium introducing port, and said springs are coiled springs provided at both ends of said plate-like shutter as viewed in said longitudinal direction.

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4. A fixing unit according to claim 1, wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said recording medium.

5. A fixing unit according to claim 1, wherein said
10 medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.

15 6. A fixing device comprising a fixing unit which is detachably attached to an image forming apparatus, and fuses and fixes an unfixed toner onto a recording medium, said fixing unit including:

20 a gripping part which is provided outside said fixing unit and is gripped when said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing unit;

a medium introducing port which is provided near said gripping part and to which said recording medium is guided; and

25 a shutter which is provided slanted at a given angle with respect to a gripping surface of said gripping part such that

said shutter has a fulcrum at a part thereof closer to said gripping part at said medium introducing port, and is turnable to a position to close said medium introducing port while resisting the urging forces of springs, in which said medium introducing port is
5 provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device,

wherein in a state that said fixing unit is attached to
10 said fixing device, said shutter is kept in a state that said shutter opens said medium introducing port by said urging forces of said springs, and said recording medium is guided to said medium introducing port, from a lower side of said fixing unit.

15 7. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a fixing device which is detachably attached to a main body of an image forming apparatus, and fuses and fixes an unfixed toner onto a recording medium, said fixing unit comprising:
a medium introducing port, provided in said fixing device,
20 for introducing said recording medium from said main body of said image forming apparatus to said fixing device; and
a recording medium guide for guiding said recording medium to said medium introducing port when said recording medium is introduced from said main body of said image forming apparatus
25 to said fixing device, said recording medium guide being provided

on said fixing device and near said medium introducing port, and being turnable to a position to close said medium introducing port.

5 8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said recording medium guide includes coiled springs at both ends thereof, and said coiled spring urges said recording medium guide in a direction in which said recording medium guide opens said medium introducing port.

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9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording medium guide is held with said coiled springs at a position where said recording medium guide opens said medium introducing port, and said recording medium guide 15 is turned, while resisting the urging forces of said coiled springs, when said recording medium guide is turned to a position to close said medium introducing port .

10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, 20 wherein said fixing device includes stoppers which come in contact with both ends of said recording medium guide at a position where said recording medium closes said medium introducing port.

11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 8, 25 wherein said fixing device includes stoppers which come in

contact with both ends of said recording medium guide at a position where said recording medium closes said medium introducing port.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 9,
5 wherein said fixing device includes stoppers which come in contact with both ends of said recording medium guide at a position where said recording medium closes said medium introducing port.

13. A fixing unit according to claim 2, wherein said
10 medium introducing port is linear in shape, and said shutter is a plate-like member extending in a longitudinal direction of said linear medium introducing port, and said springs are coiled springs provided at both ends of said plate-like shutter as viewed in said longitudinal direction.

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14. A fixing unit according to claim 2, wherein said shutter is a transport guide for said recording medium.

15. A fixing unit according to claim 3, wherein said
20 shutter is a transport guide for said recording medium.

16. A fixing unit according to claim 2, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium
25 introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said

fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.

17. A fixing unit according to claim 3, wherein said medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing 5 unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.

18. A fixing unit according to claim 4, wherein said 10 medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.

19. A fixing unit according to claim 15, wherein said 15 medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.

20. A fixing unit according to claim 13, wherein said 20 shutter is a transport guide for said recording medium, and said medium introducing port is provided in a bottom of said fixing unit such that a longitudinal direction of said medium introducing port is perpendicular to directions in which said fixing unit is attached to and detached from said fixing device.